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PP RUEHIK RUEHPOD RUEHYG
DE RUEHMD #1644 2401438
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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3272
INFO RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY 0222
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 0739
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY 0164
RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY 0252
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY 0123
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY 0335
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY 2421
RUEHLA/AMCONSUL BARCELONA PRIORITY 2997
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY

UNCLAS MADRID 001644

SIPDIS

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SENSITIVE

DRL/NESCA FOR JOSEPH BARGHOUT
NEA/ELA FOR GAUTAM RANA

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [EUN](#) [JA](#) [KDEM](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [SA](#) [SY](#) [SP](#)
SUBJECT: SPAIN SUPPORTS EU EFFORTS ON RIAD SEIF

REF: STATE 119436

(SBU) Acting PolCouns delivered reftel demarche to MFA Deputy Director General for Human Rights Fernando Fernandez-Arias on August 28. Fernandez-Arias was aware of the EU approach on the issue and said that Spain preferred to handle issues such as this at the EU level as it provided more weight than an individual demarche. He committed to share the information with the Political Director and the Deputy DG for the Middle East Alberto Ucelay, but he expressed his belief that Spain would wait to see whether EU efforts made any headway in getting Syria to allow Seif to exit the country before considering a bilateral approach.

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